

College of Surgeons, to which he gave much time and many princely donations. In a way he was unlike a great many others, for his generosity was recognized and his name will ever be remembered with that of John Hunter as the two greatest benefactors of the College. As proof of this may be mentioned the Honorary Fellowship which he received, and the congratulatory banquet which was held at the College on his ninetieth birthday.

After due consideration of Buckston Browne, his life, history, and achievements, one cannot, I think, avoid this question—What would have been the possibilities for him as a man, a teacher of medical students, and a surgeon had he taken his fellowship and gone on the staff of a London teaching hospital—all of which were well within his competence? S. T. I.

THE STUDENT LIFE: THE PHILOSOPHY OF SIR WILLIAM OSLER. Edited by Richard E. Verney, M.B., F.R.C.P.E., D.R., with forewords by John Bruce, C.B.E., T.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., and Alec H. Macklin, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., M.D. (Pp. xiii + 214. 15s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1957.

For many years one of my best-loved books has been "Counsels and Ideals," by C. N. B. Camac, which consists of excerpts from the writings of Sir William Osler. Published in 1905, it has for over twenty-five years been a constant source for the restimulation of one's belief in the ideals which a medical man should have. Though the rough and tumble of modern life may tend to blunt the finer sensitivities, return for an hour to the writings of Osler will soon rekindle the idealism of undergraduate and early graduate days.

Today the problem of university education appears to be the balance between the study of the sciences, which is essential in the modern world, and the study of the humanities, which to many appears to be an atavistic remnant of more leisured days.

The frequent sterility of the purely scientific education is now beginning to alarm many university teachers. Man must live, chemical equations without a concomitant philosophy represent a lowering of the standard of intellectual living for which the increased economic standard cannot compensate. This problem has long been recognized by medical teachers, but by none more acutely than Osler. In the nineteenth century the training of a doctor was often the attempted development of a personality. Technical knowledge, such as it was, he must have, but even more important was the general background of his culture. When his science was scant, his general knowledge of life and humanity held chief importance. The art of medicine includes its science, but has a much wider, and often more acceptable, application.

As Professor Bruce points out in his foreword, it is at the present time, with its rapid changes, more essential than ever to keep before us "the ideals and the obligations, the demands and the sacrifices that medicine calls for from those who are privileged to serve its cause." In this series of essays Osler, in his classical and limpid style, has set forth those ideals and obligations in an inimitable way. Certainly every medical student should possess this book, not only for its own value, but also for the answers it opens up to a wider literature and a fuller way of life. J. H. B.

A HANDBOOK ON DISEASES OF CHILDREN. By Bruce Williamson, M.D.(Edin.), F.R.C.P.(Lond.). Eighth Edition. (Pp. xi + 483; figs. 116. 27s. 6d.) London and Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1957.

SINCE I last reviewed this book it has been brought up to date in many respects and much new material has been added. The section on nutrition has been expanded and valuable charts of food values added. The chapter on hæmolytic diseases and the rhesus factor now gives an up-to-date account of the diseases and their treatment.

Within the necessarily condensed composite of the book it gives a useful summary of most of the problems of child health, and should be valuable as an easy reference book for the family doctor. Medical students should also find it valuable for revision, although there is possibly not enough detail for it to be relied upon as the main source of information.

W. A. B. C.